WENDELL POST

Vol. VIII No. 4 Dec - Jan 85-86 25¢

Swift River Improvement Gets Town Meeting O.K.

On Nov. 7, the process of improving Swift River School was started with a Special Town Meeting in Wendell. The voters voted to transform the Study Committee into the Building Committee and add two new members. Also $5,400 was noted to hire an architect. On Wed., Nov. 13, New Salem was scheduled to vote on this also. It will require the vote of both towns or it will be a dead issue.

The Swift River Study Committee was formed in the spring of 1985, after town meeting approval. Wendell members, chosen by the moderator, were Joseph Diemand, as a member of the school committee, James Woodward and Gladys Powling. From New Salem they were joined by Lynda Graves, member of school committee, Hendra Reidy and Trudy Berkovitz.

At the first meeting, Gladys Powling was elected chairman and Hendra Reidy, secretary. During June of 1985, the committee visited the school, in session, if it was possible, and during times convenient for the members. We talked with the teachers, discussing their problems in rooms under state-required minimum size for classrooms.

We saw how short on storage space the school is at the present time. The musical instruments are kept in the electric circuit room, certainly not a place for an unsupervised youngster. The art space is lacking in both work area and storage. The cafeteria serves as the art room and it is necessary to remove everything at lunch time.

Special needs students have two very small rooms, where storage is at a premium and things were literally hanging from the ceiling.

All rooms feel very close as far as air and space are concerned, some more than others. The Chapter 1 room has a door in, and is not much bigger than a closet. It also happens to be in approximately the center of the school, with no windows and the one door in and out. Generally speaking, the whole school seems to be lacking in space.

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Planning Board Head Talks of Town's 'Population Explosion'

Tom Wetherby, chairman of the Wendell Planning Board, says he personally is ready to recommend a 100-ft increase in road frontage... to 200 ft. for new building lots. But boosting the acreage requirement from two acres, the current minimum, to three or even four in certain sections of town will have to await studies of Wendell's groundwater and soils.

"Before you put a new development policy like that into effect," he said, "you have to know what you're dealing with for land quality and aquifer and water quality protection." He said the planning board would seek to have hydrologic studies done before recommending any increase.

In an interview that focused on Wendell's sudden growth pressures, he expressed his support for voluntary land protection programs. By the strange mathematics of modern residential development, he said, reduced tax arrangements like Chapter 61 (woodland) or 61A (farmland) can be less of a burden on the town's tax base than land developed with $60,000 single-family houses. "Education costs are so high that the benefits of limiting single-family houses outweigh the costs of these classification programs in many cases," he said.

He expressed interest in a bylaw in Rutland by which the town insists on the right of first refusal in the sale of open-space land. "Perhaps the town could buy just the developmental rights," he mused. He would also like to learn more about the instrument of land trusts to control development.

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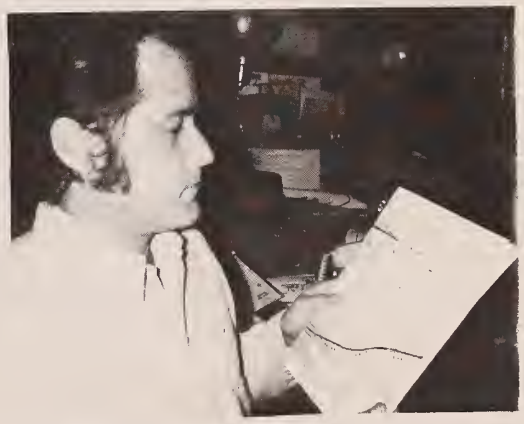
State Pricks Up Ears at Low Profile Proposal

At long last there has finally been a breakthrough in the impass over the South Bank Alignment (SBA), the state's plan to relocate Route 2 along the south bank of the Millers River through the Wendell State Forest. An alternate plan known as the Low Profile Alignment (LPA), has been proposed by the Route 2 Environmental Coalition.

This is a plan which meets the State's perceived needs for a new highway while minimizing environmental damage and which the DPW believes has considerable merit.

cont. p. 9



RECOGNIZED--Michael Idoine was cited December 4 by Massachusetts Audubon for his work on the threat to Wendell State Forest and the Millers River by the proposed Route 2 relocation. The annual Audubon "A" awards declare that "each action to preserve the quality of our environment...starts with a single person." Michael, selectboard member and former town moderator, visualized a better location for a highway through the Erving snafu and, with Mason Phelps, and professional engineering advice, helped it materialize into an actual plan. Previous recipients include former U. S. Senator Paul Tsongas, nuclear disarmament advocate Dr. Helen Caldicott, and Yankee Publishing Co.

WENDELL POST

Vol. VIII No. 4

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Special thanks to Bob Ellis for the front page art.

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FAREWELL

The staff of the Wendell Post wishes to express sincere appreciation for all the work Brenda Vincent did for the paper in the past years. She was proofreader, meeting hostess, regular column coordinator, and chief distributor. Brenda has recently left the staff.

SINGERS WANTED

Is anyone out there interested in getting together once a month for a fireside a cappella singing session of rounds and folk songs?

Call Bev at 544-6801 if you're interested in starting a new tradition in town.

Notice

Bob Bowers' name was omitted by mistake from the list of Fire Department personnel in the Wendell Directory. The Wendell Post regrets any inconvience.

Births

Congratulations to:

Beth Erviti and Jerry Barilla of Montague Road on the birth of their daughter, Ariel Elsbeth Barilla, 8 lb. 3 oz., born in Cooley Dickinson Hospital on Sept. 1 at 7:08 p.m.

Teresa Nelson Koehler and John "Klondike" Koehler of Bear Mountain Road on the birth of their daughter, Aubry Nelson Koehler, 8 lb. 12 oz., born in Cooley Dickinson Hospital on Oct. 9 at 7:31 a.m.

Eileen Sauvageau and Stephen Broll of Locks Village Road on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Sauvageau Broll, 7 lb. 6 oz. She was born at home on Oct. 27 at 3:22 a.m.

POLICE LOG

9-19 Two handguns stolen from David Walsh's house.
9-26 Break in at Jimmy Fikes on Farley Rd. 5" Panasonic T.V. stolen.
9-30 Two male juveniles from Maple Valley charged with breaking and entry at Fikes. T.V. recovered.
10-7 Benjamin Sylvia had a three wheeler accident off Stone Rd. Was taken to Farren Hospital.
10-13 Two men arrested at microwave tower on Locke Hill and charged with trespassing.
10-15 One car accident on Depot Hill. No injuries.
11-16 Arrested Charlie Thompson. Default warrant.
11-19 Jim Woodward"s mailbox vandalized.

FIRE LOG

The fire department was not called out for any fires or false alarms, the Wendell Post is very happy to report. With the cold months coming now, we remind everyone to be extra careful with your wood-burning stoves. If you haven't yet cleaned your chimney or stove pipe please do so now before it's too late.

Town of Wendell
Massachusetts

Town Letterhead Contest

Competition to design new Town letterhead is open to all Wendell residents. The Wendell Selectboard is looking for a fresh letterhead for its stationery, a design that will represent "a sense of what is Wendell" to correspondents to the town.

Designs should be made to fit and should be submitted on the top 2 3/4" of an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of plain white paper.

Entried should be submitted to the selectboard by Dec. 17, 1985. Conceptual, carefully drawn entried will be accepted.

When a winner is chosen, she/he will be notified by the Selectboard and their entry will be published in the following Wendell Post.

Deaths

Alfred Puckey died on Sept. 13, 1985 at the Franklin Medical Center. Alfred was 82 years old. He was born on Nov. 10, 1902 in New York.

Land Transfers

7/1 Emma Cappelluzzo to Linda A. Anderson, 7 A& Bldgs. on Lock's Hill Road
7/11 Sally A. Howe to Timothy A. and Pamela A. Martinelli, 4.1 A on Lock's Hill Road.
7/16 Sally A. Howe to James S. Bernotas, 3.2 A on Lock's Hill Road #1
6/28 Walter C. Jones to Rural Housing Improvement, Inc. 8.972A on Montague Road.
7/25 David R. McCarthy and Alexandria L. Buckowski, Bldgs. & 2.91A on Wendell Depot Rd., to Karol F. Jamrock, Jr.
8/5 Mary Houghton to Susan Goldberg, Bldgs. & 1.873 A on Jennison Rd.
8/12 Andrew L. & Donna N. Chambers to Marianne Sundell, Bldgs. & 10.8 A on Lock's Village Rd.
8/23 Conrad J. & Eleanor Ann Dugre to Jon Holst, 2.548 A on Mormon Hollow Road
8/29 Antoinette J. & George W. Cowan to Shepard Wenglin, 5 A on Lock's Village Rd.
9/4 Marilou & John F. Bartus to Kathleen & Walter C., Jr. Matthews, 2.92 A on Jennison Rd.
9/5 Winona A. & Robert E. Ballou to Walter C. Jones, 17.7 A on Lock's Village & Cooleyville Rds.
9/18 Walter C. Jones to Robert W. Vincent, 7.32 A on Cooleyville Rd.

Special Town Meeting

(On Nov. 7, 1985 the following articles were voted on.)

Article 1- That the town accept the report of the New Salem/Wendell Building Study Committee and to create a new building committee. Carried.
Article 2- That the town appropriate $5,400 to design an addition to Swift River School (Wendell's share). Carried.
Article 3-to accept Equal Education Opportunity Grant for New Salem/Wendell school up to $19,000. Carried.
Article 4- That the town transfer up to $2,500 from overlay surplus to the fire department. Carried.
Article 5- That the town raise and appropriate up to $400 for recreation commission. Carried.
Article 6- That the town raise and appropriate up to $4,000 to the board of health for dump expenses. Carried.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas pageant will be held Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.at the Wendell Church followed by caroling around town. Rehearsals will be Saturday, Dec. 7,14, and 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the church. We need actors-mostly children, and musicians any age. All Welcome!

Marijuana Flyover Nets One Arrest
Several Complaints of Harrassment

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 8, a Massachusetts state police helicopter made its presence known in the skies over Wendell. The helicopter's inhabitants, including Wendell Police Chief Ed Chase, were searching the countryside for marijuana.

Elsewhere, increased use of aerial surveillance nationwide is a direct result of a joint effort between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local law enforcement agencies. But John Shea, Franklin-Hampshire County Assistant District Attorney who oversees the marijuana program in the two-county area, said in a recent Valley Advocate issue that authorities here in Franklin and Hampshire Counties did not accept any of the federal money. According to Shea, the prosecutors don't want to deal with restrictions on how the federal money is used. "We're operating independently, and the federal money wouldn't enhance our efforts." he said.

Regardless of who funded the September 8 flyover in Wendell and surrounding areas, it resulted in one local arrest--of Bob Leet of New salem Road. A charge of intent to distribute against Leet was dropped and he was fined $685 for growing.

The flyover left a number of Wendell residents feeling violated in terms of privacy, unfairly harrassed as well as frightened. Others were not bothered by the helicopter's presence, and a common response was "They're just doing their job."

Four Wendell residents filed written complaints with the board of selectmen, questioning the legality of "tree-top level" flying according to one complaint. At least two complaints were concerned with the involvement of Chief Chase in the incident. The selectboard responded by meeting with Chase. He informed the board that the search was planned and executed by the state police and that he was "invited at the last minute to go along for the ride." He insisted that he did not direct the helicopter crew to any residence, only "let them know which places would be unproductive." He also stated that the helicopter was not flown less than 500 feet above the ground.

The selectboard has taken no action against Chase, and informed the complaintants of the results from their meeting with Chase.

Jonathan von Ranson is one of the Wendell residents who complained to the selectboard. He has also written letters to the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union and various public officials. He says most of the replies have been "sympathetic but unhelpful." Carmen Buell's office spoke to the director of Congressional Affairs, and replied that "a similar operation was challenged in the California courts several years ago, with the ultimate ruling being that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in that airspace. No court case has upheld the existence of overhead privacy rights, and thus there are no legal grounds to say it's an invasion of privacy."

The Civil Liberties Union had a similar reply. "There have been several cases in federal courts which have held that such searches do not violate the Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches. Last year the United States Supreme Court indicated that it agreed with the reasoning in these cases, and that such searches are legal. However, the letter added, "The Civil Liberties Union does not believe that the courts are correct."

At least one area attorney, Stewart Eisenberg, has expressed an interest in challenging the aerial flyovers in Superior Court. Eisenberg's legal assistant says "We're still working on which legal avenue would be most effective. We hope to make a move in the near future." For his part, von Ranson says "We discovered a flyover can be low enough, or go on long enough, to interfere with a reasonable expectation of privacy. We have nothing to hide, only some feeling for the rights and protections of being a U.S. citizen. If this is how people who grow nothing illegal are treated I feel sorry for those who do cultivate a few plants of the wrong kind."

In the meantime, he is not satisfied with the response offered the selectboard by Chase. He estimates the helicopter flew at "no more than two tree-heights" (160-200 ft.) -- less than half what Chase claimed. He sees an inconsistency in the helicopter's actions and Chase's statements that "there was no prior suspicion that von Ranson was growing marijuana on his property," and that Chase only "let the helicopter crew know which places would be unproductive." In a letter in response, von Ranson told the selectboard "If Chief Chase was not directing...apparently someone in the State Police had already decided to fly to my property in the middle of the wilds of Bear Mountain. Given this, how does he know "there was no prior suspicion? Could he read the minds of the pilot and the State Police drug specialist in the aircraft? If it was he who he meant had no suspicion of marijuana being grown here, why didn't he exercise his veto prerogative on this time-consuming search?"

Von Ranson believes the answer may lie in "a comment the Chief made which reached me second-hand...to the effect that there was a desire to search my place especially carefully because I am involved in the Rt. 2 fight."

Chase replied to the letter by saying "von Ranson wasn't suspect, but we couldn't rule out anything until we went up. It was an observation flight, it wasn't for political reasons."

Selectman Michael Idoine considers the matter closed "to the extent that we can deal with it. It sounds like the problem is bigger than us, and rectifying this means reaching higher than the selectboard by a long shot."

-- Robert Streeter

Three Wheeler Accident Is Taken As a Warning

To the Wendell Post Readers:

For some time now I've been concerned about the three wheelers in Wendell. I drive the back way on Stone Road at least a few times a week and in the evening it's not unusual to see fresh tracks that look a lot like three wheeler tracks. I sometimes see the boys driving them in their driveways on my way by shortly afterwards. I wonder about my going through the backroads and the three wheelers perhaps coming the other way...my hitting them or their hitting me. I've seen certain boys on the three wheelers mostly in their driveways going at what seemed to be very fast and a little bit reckless.

I'm concerned about my car and myself a little, but more than that about these kids on the three wheelers. I've been very afraid of an accident in the woods.

My nephew, Benjamin, was in just such an accident in the woods on Stone Road. I'm very happy to say he just broke his foot and had to have twenty six stitches. It's been about six weeks and he is now able to walk on his foot again. What I fear is that some teenager or a younger boy will wind up getting paralized or even killed. I'm glad the accident with Ben happened as it did because all in all it's a very minor injury compared to what it might have been.

It's not only on the back roads that three wheelers are being driven. On Wendell Depot Road there have been many mornings that in going to work, my husband has come upon a boy riding his three wheeler before the bus comes. Things happen so fast and they do happen to our children. I urge the parents of the children with three wheelers and even parents of the children's friends to talk with their children about recreational vehicle safety and how important it is. Please remember that just one mistake could do a whole lot of damage and change someones life forever.

Anne Diemand

The following is the law that the Select men have asked the Wendell Police Dept. to enforce.

Massachusetts Snowmobile and Recreational Vehicle Law
Division of Marine and Recreational Vehicles
Chapter 90B of the General Laws
Operation

Section 25. No person shall operate a snow vehicle or a recreation vehicle upon any state, county, city or town way in the Commonwealth, nor on the plowed snowbanks of such ways, nor upon any other public way---.

Highway Crossing

After coming to a full stop a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle may cross as directly as possible, a public way, except a controlled access highway, provided that such crossing can be made in a safe manner and it does not interfere with the free movement of vehicular traffic. The operator of a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to all other vehicular traffic. Snow vehicles or recreation vehicles may be operated on any way that is not maintained or used for the operation af conventional motor vehicles.

A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $300, or by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than sixty days or both.

Section 26

No one shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle so as to endanger any person or property. No one shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle in a reforested or planted area in a manner to cause damage to growing stock.

No one under the age of sixteen and one half years of age shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle across a public highway. No one under fourteen years of age shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle unless directly supervised by an adult.

A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of not less than $20 nor more than $100.

Focus on Harry Williston Departing Clerk to Selectmen

The Selectmen's minutes are no longer the handiwork of Harry Williston. After 12 years of officiating as Clerk to the Wendell Selectboard, Harry Williston has put his quill to the task of summing up his duties in order to pass along a concise job description to a new Clerk. This issue of the "Post" spotlights the departing Clerk, in recognition of the service Harry Williston has given and continues to give our community.

When asked about an interview, Williston cautioned, that "It's hard to catch me now." His job involves "a lot of traveling", heexplained. These "job constrints" are the cause of his resignation as Clerk. Williston was bothered by the fact that he might miss too many Tuesday night Selectmen's meetings due to his travel schedule. He reflects that "I miss going to (Selectmen's) meetings and knowing what's going on. I miss my Tuesday nights up there, but I don't."

Williston has been Clerk to the Selectbard since Sept. 1, 1973. Some may recall that as the year that Joe Barry resigned as Town Clerk, and Annie Hartjens took over. She had been Selectboard Clerk, but found it not possible to both jobs. Harry Williston, along with two others, applied for the opening as Selectboard Clerk. Notably, Williston was already familiar with the Selectboard's duties, having previously served a term as Selectman himself. The Selectmen obviously thought he had something to offer, because we, of course, know who got the job.

Since he came on as Clerk, Williston has watched the demands on the Board increase & become more comples. Some duties have become so unwieldy that new departments have been formed to take over the responsibilities. "The Board of Selectmen was the Board of Health, now they are seperate." The state highway dept. is turning "duties of the roads over more and more to the towns. Now we have a seperate Highway Commission...Most people don't realize how much time these jobs take", says Williston. He tried to come up with an average weekly number of hours, but said of his total, "I'm being conservative,...your home is open to the general public and there are disruptions to your normal routine because people are in constant conversation. The phone rings at least a couple of times a night." Even so, Williston will readily admit that he is left feeling that the job "was and education", that offered the "satisfaction of doing a job well."

Asked about other trends, Williston observed that interest in the town is "going down. People today don't have as much community spirit." He cited fear of lawsuits as being one factor. "it used to be that the business people got involved to protect their interests, to lend their experience, to save money, and to generate goodwill. Today there is too much to loose. People jumping on the bandwagon to take people to court is hurting volunteerism. I'd hate to see our community loose its volunteerism...everybody tied up in their own little world."

Q: When the "Post" came along, you were quick to put the Selectmans' minutes in. Why?"

A: "It was a good idea. I had it years ago. Years ago at a Candidate's Night, I had suggested a Selectmen's newsletter."

Q: "Did you notice any change as a result of published minutes?"

A: "Just that it made made the Selectmen more sensitive in their comments."

Q: "Did the published minutes ever cause you any trouble?"

A: "Just a couple of times. I had an obligation to write the highlights (of the meeting). Sometimes people don't like what they said. And sometimes people don't like how it was reported."

Q: "Why do you involve yourself with thankless jobs for the Town?"

A: "Maybe interest in town is inbred in me? My father was the Williamsburg Town Treasurer, my mother was on the Finance Committee. Maybe some would disagree, but I don't think you should get up in Town Meeting and complain at others unless you intend to help."

Q: "Do you regret being out of the field education?"

A: "Out of education?" I'm not out of education. Whether you run a tree crew... you're teaching."

Q: "How is it that you came to Wendell?"

A: "I didn't even know where Wendell was until I got a job up here. I had been teaching for two years & was doing course work for a Masters in Ed Administration. I was looking for an administrative position in a small town with a 2-5 room school house. They used to be common. I heard about the Wendell Center School opening. I knew where New Salem was because they were our rival in High School. I called up. I didn't even know how to get here. I had an interview 1 hour later, & I think I was hired later that day. I taught grades 4,5,6, was principa plus school bus driver for the school years of 65-68. The principal had to be a jack-of-all trades. If the boiler broke, I took care of it. The other teacher was Mrs. Avery. When Mrs. Avery retired, Judy Jewett was hired. The next year it was Linda Raymond, a different persbn each year."

Q: "Where did you live?"

A: "I rented a room from Cliff Fournier,a teacher in Erving. I met Del at a Wendell Old Home Day, she can probably tell you. We've been married for 18 years. We have a son, Rick. We also take in foster kids. We've had over 30 different foster children. The last one visits every other weekend." (Big smile.)

Williston is the general foreman for a company whose service is providing "right of way management." Williston paused for effect then said, "That's herbicide application, especially for utilities. Those are nasty words in this town." He has several crews reporting to him, and others indirectly. "My territory is western Mass., Connecticut, and eastern New York State."

Despite the travel demands of his occupation, Williston's association with the town is by no means over. He remains on as Town Accountant and Deputy Chief of the Wendell Fire Dept. He is a long standing Wendell Old Home Day supporter, even during some of the leaner years. Many of the hats Harry Williston and his wife, Del, have worn are not mentioned here at all. Spotlights, honors, thankyous, and financial rewards are not the reason people like these don the various hats that have to be worn to keep our towns going. Whatever their motivation is, certainly it is one of our town's greatest treasures.

Kathy Becker

KLONDIKE SOUND CO.
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Highway Commissioners Meet Mondays in Garage

The only Highway Commission in the State began its work last May. Our Commissioners are: Chairperson, Jay Blackbird 544-2069; Secretary, Joe Hartjens 544-6052; Sargeant at Arms (just kidding) Steve Lelito 544-3418. The town will elect one each year.

Together with the Highway Surveyor, Ron Grogan, they are "a four-man team" according to Joe Hartjens. They meet every Monday at 6:30 pm in the Town Garage to discuss the work for the week and to plan so that projected goals will be fulfilled.

They also deal with complaints. Their policy is to respond in writing to all complaints within 7 days. One problem is that there have not been any complaints--only rumors.

The meetings are open and folks are urged to attend, or call any of the Commissioners, or write to P.O. Box 141 Wendell Depot.

Chairperson Jay takes care of all the financial paperwork. Joe makes out reports and handles all correspondence. This relieves the Road Boss of several hours of paperwork every week. Ron reports the hours and keeps maintenance records. Ron and Steve, who teaches mechanics at the trade school, are point men for mechanical problems. There have been, and continue to be, many.

Selectman Ted Lewis is the liason from the Selectboard to the Commission which is independent, just like the School Committee.

Mr. Grogan says, "Things are goin' pretty good."

* * * *

If anyone knows where the town can get a small tractor with a cutter bar, they should call Jay.

A. Parker Cleveland

NOTICE- About 60% of all privately owned parcels of land in Wendell are owned by people outside of Wendell/ Wendell Depot!

FOR SALE: 1971 Volvo 144, damaged. Engine good, tires exellent. Call Bob Ellis, 659-2639

Diemand's Egg Farm
617 544-3806

Wendell's Revaluation

Jesse Wetherby, chairperson of the Wendell Board of Assessors, was notified last week by Ron Woodger of the Department of Revenue that the town's FY 1985 new proposed assessments meet the Department's certification standards, and that the assessors may proceed with the next certification step of sending out "impact notices" to all owners.

Ron Woodger and Steve Brown recently conducted their certification review which included analyzing sales, reviewing properties in the field, and verifying that properties are properly classified according to use.

The State's approval of the revalution is most gratifying to the Wendell Board of Assessors and also to us at the assessor-consultant's office, as our office has actively assisted the Wendell assessors in completing their delayed FY 1985 revaluation. A similar revaluation by a professional company would have cost the town about $20,000.

We used the Massachusetts manual cost system which is an uncomplicated revaluation method, very workable and especially suited for assessors of small communities, who must revaluate their properties themselves.

Council on Aging

The Wendell Council on Aging has been in existence for a year and a half.

Elsie Diemand, Kenneth Simos and Gladys Powling were the members asked to get it going for Wendell.

Subsequently Ken resigned, for pressure from work, and Elizabeth Scully was asked to fill the void.

During the past year and a half a survey was sent to over 60 homes with very disappointing results. Disappointing from the Council's perspective, we found no expectations of services for senior citizens. Two Saturday luncheons with auction and bingo proved very discouraging with 10 people in attendance on one Saturday.

Recently, the Council has had two calls for assistance. We are pleased to be able to assist where we can.

Money is available for travel payments if a senior has to go shopping, for medical care, etc., and has to hire someone to take them. Please call one of us for details.

Wendell does have a Council on Aging! For assistance call Gladys Powling, Chair., 544-6322; Elsie Diemand, 544-2762; Elizabeth Scully, 544-3142.

At the moment, the Council is not active per se, because of need, but it could change easily, by use.

- Gladys Powling

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-3806

Wendell Stream Chosen for Acidification Experiment

A project of national significance to control the effects of acid deposition on running waters will take place here in Wendell. Whetstone Brook, (a.k.a. Kempfield Brook) which flows through Wendell Depot from the East Rd. area, has been chosen by the Mass. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife for the five-year study. The southern tributaries of the Millers River have the dubious distinction of being some of the most heavily impacted as a result of acid rain in New England.

According to Dave Halliwell, Stream Survey and Inventory Project Leader for Mass. D.F.W., Whetstone was chosen because its past popularity as a fine small trout stream and its extreme susceptibility to acidification. A water bed becomes susceptibile to acidification when the buffering capabilities of the earth, rock and sand through which it flows loses their ability to neutralize the acid deposited by the rain, snow, fog, or solid industrial wastes.

Acid deposition is caused by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. The smokestacks of electrical generating plants, industrial boilers and smelters and the exhaust pipes of our motor vehicles release the oxides of nitrogen and sulfur which then disolve in the moisture of the clouds to form sulfuric and nitric acid which then rains on our environment.

In areas where water flows through earth rich in limestone, marble, or other "basic" (opposite of acid) deposits, the acid rain is buffered or neutralized. In Wendell, water flows through granite which does not have much buffering capacity, making for easily impacted waters. Acidified waters will not sustain most of the life forms which normally inhabit them. Crayfish, mussels, snails, shiners, and trout are the first to go. Whetstone Brook has been too acidic to be stocked with trout for the past several years. They would simply die.

Most attempts to neutralize acidified waters by adding crushed or powdered lime have been tried on ponds and lakes with limited success. Streams and rivers require different treatment. Now for the first time, under a newly funded federal Acid Precipitation Mitigation Program, the state will attempt to mitigate the effects of acid rain on flowing water--namely Whetstone Brook.

The study is in preliminary stages and is designed to determine the cost-benefits of installing a neutralization device which was developed in the Scandinavian countries where acid rain has been a problem for decades. Basically, the study consists of extensive monitoring for one year to assess the current status of the stream's ecology. A U.S.G.S. gauging station will be installed in the lower section of the brook, probably below the Depot Rd. The guage will measure water volume and flow rates and relay the computerized information to a lime "doser" which, installed a few miles upstream, will squirt a lime solution into the stream in the volume determined by the information from the guaging station.

The section of stream upstream from the doser will be used as a controll (untreated) sample. The brook will then be monitored after five years of treatment to measure the effects of the treatment on the aquatic biota. Whetstone Brook will be closed to fishing for the duration of the study. Dave Halliwell has asked for the local support in monitoring the fishing ban and protecting the instruments.

Myron Becker

POLICE

Recorder/Eric Wilkinson

WENDELL'S FIRST CRUISER IS ON PATROL
by Jim Paulin
Recorder Correspondent

Wendell- Speeding motorists have no doubts when the town police are pursuing them now. The first police cruiser in the history of Wendell, a dark blue and white 1983 Ford LTD, has been patrolling town roads since late summer.

At the annual town meeting last May, voters approved, by a 26-19 vote, $2,000 for purchase a used vehicle to serve as a police cruiser.

The police department used that appropriation to buy the eight cylinder, former police cruiser with 80,000 miles on the odometer from Natick Ford, according to Police Chief Edward Chase.

It makes a big difference. We're not beating up our own cars," Chase said. Police officers are paid 15 cents per mile for using their personal vehicles for police work, he said.

And there's no mistaking the clearly identifiable police car. "There's no question it's a police officer behind you, not somebody in a pick up truck with blue lights," he said. At the annual town meeting, he said he'd pursued motorists for miles who hadn't realized they were supposed to pull over.

Members of the part time force still use their personal vehicles occasionally, especially during emergencies, he said. But patrolling in a town-owned vehicle, "the question of insuring various individuals cars" is no longer a problem, Chase said.

The white and dark blue cruiser was painted by an inmate at the Franklin County House of Correction in Greenfield where Chase works as a corrections officer. Wendell Police Dept. members installed the flashing lights and siren.

Chase said he hasn't received any comments from the public on the cruiser. "Everybody seems to accept it...time will tell," he said.

Wendell's Oldest Families...

Wetherbys Worked in Lumber, Machines, Town Affairs

"They were really contented here. She didn't go out much, they weren't involved in town affairs. Things were mostly rural; it was quiet." Jessie Wetherby is speaking about Wendell and what she remembers of her husband, Francis', parents.

Francis Wetherby came to Wendell at the age of five in 1917 with his grandfather, Joseph, and grandmother from Vermont. They settled into an old farmhouse which stood where Jessie's son Tom and his wife Sylvia now have a house on Morse Village Road. "It was a farm; they had chickens and cows and there was a barn there," Jessie says. "There were lots of farms in Wendell -- Ballou's, Powling's..."

Francis' father, Plin, and mother, Edith (Taylor) stayed in Wendell and raised eleven children in that house. Plin also purchased the property and house across the street and east, the house Jessie raised her children in and where she now resides. The pavement ended up the hill from the Wetherby homestead and Jessie says, "We got all the dust."

Plin Wetherby was a lumberman, and it is not surprising that he settled in Wendell. There were two lumber mills in town -- Glenn Ellis' on Davis Turn Road, and Ballou's back of where the Country Store is now. Bob Ballou's father had built and ran a small liquor store in what is now Wendell Country Store, and Jessie also remembers a blacksmith shop down back of Apollo Blues' barnhouse. Several of Plin's children went to the New Salem Academy, then a boarding school. Francis was one of its graduates.

Jessie was not a newcomer to the rural life in 1950 when she and Francis, several years married, moved to the Wetherby-Taylor property in Wendell. "My father leased the farm we lived on in North Orange. He made and sold maple syrup and butter, and delivered milk. We had horses and he drove a team. He always dealt with horses...drove a team for New Homes sewing machines. Then we moved to Athol."

Jessie remembers going to dances in Wendell Depot in the 30's. Across from what is now the Depot Post Office stood a large building that had a store and barber shop. On the top floor, a dentist from Orange, Dr. Charles, ran a weekly dance. "I wasn't supposed to go, but I went!" Jessie states defiantly. "There were dances every night of the week, all over -- Turners Falls, Athol. On Friday night -- anywhere." It was at one of these dances that Jessie met Francis Wetherby.

"At the Wendell Depot dances there was a band. All ages came and they did both square dances and round...we did the Big Apple and the Charleston. There were buses from Athol, or sometimes we piled into a friend's car."

Jessie thinks the building was destroyed by the big flood in '38. "New England Power blew the dam because Wendell would not give them a requested 5-year abatement to allow them to rebuild," says Jessie with regretfullness befitting a member of the Board of Assessors.

"There were lots of dinners and fairs," Jessie talks of when she first came to Wendell. "Women had more time to sew and make crafts then. Now they all work. Edith Wetherby was always making aprons and things for a fair. There was a Strawberry dinner early summer, and then there's always been a Halloween and a Christmas Party for the kids from the proceeds of the dinners. And, of course, there was Old Home Day. But the big excitement of the year was Town Meeting."

Plin and Edith Wetherby

photo retaken by Ed Judice

Jessie describes Town Meeting in the 50's as a wonderful social event. Elections and the meeting were held on the same day, and the Ladies Aid served a hot lunch of stew and dessert continuously all day! At 7:00, elections closed, we had Town Meeting, then stayed and counted the votes. Well, there were only 150 voters then."

Francis Wetherby, though his family had not gone in much for town politics, did run for tree warden one year, and his brother, Charles, was a selectman. "That was after Glenn Ellis had been a selectman for twelve years. I guess you could say Glenn sort of ran the town. He was into all aspects of town government." Francis, who worked at I.D. Hunt in Orange as a machine shop foreman, also served on a committee with Joe Barry and Myron Gibbs for making town hall improvements. He was responsible for getting heat into the bathrooms and second floor meeting room.

Jessie Wetherby has been very active in town affairs. There were well-child clinics at the town hall in the early 50's and Jessie, a nurse, collected children for the services. The clinics were for pre-school children. There was a doctor, a dental hygienist and a nutritionist. She later served as clerk to the board of health, and then, unhappy with haphazard assessments, helped form the Wendell Taxpayers Association with June Lewis and Burt Goddard.

Jessie was sitting in the assessors' room in the town hall when I asked her about the Wetherby family and how they came to be in Wendell. She must have echoed her husband's grandfather's thoughts when she said, "We came because Wendell was quiet. I liked it back then. I hope the town can keep its rural character."

Susan DunLany

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Adam Drowdowski Remembers...

Adam's family moved to Wendell when he was three months old. Says he doesn't know how much they paid for the land because he was too young at the time to ask about it.

His mother, Caroline, died in '48 and his father, Pete, died in '54. They both stayed in Wendell till they passed away. Adam's family owned what is now the Facey Farm on Davis Road.

When Adam was growing up, his family did farming for a living. They sold milk to a company in springfield that made ice cream. They would bring the milk (up to 150 quarts a day) down to Millers Falls with a horse and buggy until Adam brought a car. The company would pick up the milk at the old grist mill by the Millers River bridge.

During the war Pete worked at the Erving Paper Mill.

Adam worked his father's taxes off during the summers when he was 16 till he was 21. He remembers well helping to build Wendell Depot Rd. He says "we used picks and shovels back in the good old days" Didn't have no backhoes or bulldozers just picks and shovels. The tax collector would be right there on payday to get his check, although Adam would be able to keep $5.

Adam and his brother, Joe, cut the power line up thru Wendell Depot to bring electricity to Wendell. They did it almost all with crosscut saws. They were almost done when the first chainsaw came out. They had an awful time with the chainsaw because of nails being in the maples and ended up using the handsaws to finish the job.

Ed Bezio and he also worked for six months at the C.C. Camp. There were four barracks, a big kitchen, a hospital, a two car garage and a long building to shower and clean your clothes at what is now Ruggles Pond. What Adam remembers about his time there is cutting acres and acres of land.

Adam worked at the Diemand Chicken Farm trucking chickens to Boston or getting the ice in Greenfield. He then worked at the Erving Paper Mill till retirement.

When asked what folks did for fun, he talked about the old fashioned dances at the Town Hall. They would be from 8 to 12, no liquor, no fights. Glen Ellis was the constable and he used to stand by the door to keep things under contol. Adam joined the army during the war and when he returned some things had changed, one of which, there were no more dances.

Adam likes living in Wendell because he has space around him. He has his house, his woods his garden and his land around him. He enjoys that.

Anne Diemand

This is the first in a series of articles on Wendell's Oldest Families. Look for more in coming issues.

The Editors

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Wendell Mass.
Edward Judice
544-3529
544-2739

Letters

TO THE WENDELL POST

Greetings to all our friends in Wendell from the Stone family, now living for the year in Lund, Sweden. Dottie Cleveland sent us a copy of the Sept-Oct 1985 **Wendell Post** and it was a warm, friendly glow against the slight chill of the coming Swedish winter. It was, in fact, a thrilling issue. It made us feel so proud about our home community and anxious to share it with our friends and acquaintances here in Lund. In Sweden, as in most other parts of the world, I am afraid, the USA is represented too much by McDonald Hamburgers, RAMBO, and Ronald Reagan. The last issue of the Wendell Post was a far different slice of America that speaks with the quiet understated eloquence of action and committment of concerns for peace, environmental sanity, and community spirit. When we share it with people here, they can hardly believe so much can be happening in so small a community. So I thought you would all like to know the Wendell Post has a long reach.

We are enjoying ourselves here. Lund is an exciting mix of old and new. The Center of this ancient town is dominated by a 1000 year-old cathederal, the oldest in Scandinavia. A network of narrow, winding, cobble-stone streets spread out in all directions from the center, graced by ancient trees and building. Yet the shops are many, modern and varied. Traffic is light for a town of 80,000. Everyone rides bicycles, with bike paths all through the city and extending for miles beyond perhaps troughout the entire southern tip of Sweden.

Much like Amherst, the town is centered about the University with some 20,000 students.(On Friday and Saturday nights, it seems like half the student population staggers under our fourth-floor window filling the air with traditional Swedish song (Roll Your Leg Over) at 3:00 AM.)

The gently rolling countryside is distinctly rural, almost all of it in crops or pasture. Swedish farms are elegant in their simplicity, order, and functionality. Small towns with their neat orderly houses (everyone has flowers blooming even through October) and old white church at the center rise up out of the farm land every few miles. The entire landscape here in Skåne (Southern Sweden) shows the culturing of 1,000 years of relatively peaceful living since the Vikings disappeared. Where did they go? Did they pound their swords into plow shares?

To our surprise the weather here is milder than Wendell's! Here it is Nov 3, and still more than a few leaves cling to the trees and we have not yet had a killing frost! If we want to cross country ski, we are told we must drive north and inland about 200 miles. It's the Gulf Stream that warms these shores.

The people here are ... well, Swedish! If you have heard stories of the cool reserve of Swedish people, they are probably not exagerated. Even old yankees of Vermont might seem warmly loquacious in comparison! But when the reserve is broken, there is warmth and caring underneath.

We do make friends, even if slowly, and we have enough friends so not to feel lonely or neglected. Swedes seem quite proud of their country, not exceptionally interested in travel or living in other countries. If they go to the USA, it is usually Southern California, Florida, or of course, New York. They have much to be proud of, too. Their land is large and productive and beautiful. There is no poverty here, at least none that is easily noticed as in the USA. The Swedish value an orderly life - the trains always run on time and the toilets always flush.

The ancient bells in the Cathedral are tolling 6:00 P.M.. It is easy to close our eyes and let the sound carry us back over the years ... or across the miles to Wendell. How we miss our garden, fields and orchard, the friendly faces the relaxed and informal style of Wendell living. Perhaps even in the USA, Wendell is something unique and special. We think so, and send our love and Christmas Greetings to all.

Love, The Stones
Don, Janee, Serena, Kitara.

(Gregg is in Washington, DC,
Steve at Swarthmore College).

Don & Janee Stone
Lilla Gråbröder sq. 2b
222-22 Lund SWEDEN

Letter to the "Post"

There is currently a rumor about Wendell that a list of registered local communists is in the hands of the Town Clerk. In the past, rumors like this have been very dangerous. As my name has been mentioned, I'll use myself as an example of who is claimed to be on this notorious list in order to make a point. It concerns me when people use misinformation drawn from election records as the source for rumor. This is a violation of the public trust, and undermines our democratic processes

The paper upon which my signature appears is a matter of public record. So is the party I'm registered with---Democrat. I signed papers for a state level communist candidate to try to insure their appearance on the ballot. Besides a belief in protection of the freedom of speech, I reasoned it would result in the communists having to foot the bill to tell us all what they are up to, plus give me a chance to vote against them with a vote for my preferred candidate. My motives did not seem suspect, although I knew not everyone would agree with my choice. In a democracy, one can expect a response when there is disagreement. But rumor operates outside the respected tools of our system because it cuts and digs away at wholesome community functions. People Being afraid of what others will say about them is what makes people shy about raising their hands high in town meeting. People might question where the threat in this situation really lies.

Sincerely,
Kathy Becker

Need a gift idea for a special friend or loved one?
GIVE A MASSAGE
A holiday gift certificate for a Swedish Massage by professional masseuse, Susan DunLany.
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Shadow Project Charges

On Sept. 16, Susan DunLany, Bob Streeter, and Stephen Broll, all of Wendell, came before Orange District Court on charges of defacement of public property in connection with the August 6th Hiroshima commemoration Shadow Project.

The three were charged on account of the "shadows" of nuclear bomb victims they whitewashed at two locations in Orange. They did not enter pleas and claimed no crime committed as the shadows were not permanent. (Orange police claimed damages for Orange due to the Fire Depts. work in removing the shadows.

The case was scheduled for dismissal on completion of community service by the three.

DunLany is at this time working with the Wendell Board of Assessors on paperwork involved in the reevaluations. Streeter is doing work with the children at Swift River School. Broll is also going to be doing his service for the Town of Wendell.

by Susan Dunlany

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The Beauty of Gloria

"Gloria is coming," they said. The message echoed from radios, flashed boldly from newspapers, and passed among the sidewalk inhabitants. State of the art technology and the experts told us it was so. Satellites kept watch from outer space, beaming fact after fact to sophisticated computers in sophisticated buildings. Specialists with important degrees from important universities used esoteric instruments to measure every aspect, every nook and cranny of Gloria. No part of her anatomy was left uncovered.

The specialists then sent the important information to the helpless, unknowing masses. They alerted us with microphones and microwaves, telephones and TV waves, proper precautions and "official" ways. They had set the wheels in motion. The consumers began to consume. What else was there to do? They grabbed batteries, candles, masking tape, canned goods, gasoline, whatever was left; whatever their money could buy. They stood in line for hours.

Then the masses huddled together like a flock of sheep surrounded by wolves, knowing that someone else might die but probably not themselves, for they had followed "official" precautions and bought as much as they could buy; they felt secure. The officials had followed all of the guidelines and felt quite sure that they had received the latest and most accurate important information from the specialists. The specialists had relied faithfully and religiously on the instruments at hand to admonish the officials. Gloria then arrived.

I was here in the cabin during Gloria's visit. I tried hard to be productive, to write something, to work on some inside chore, or simply to read, but Gloria kept distracting me. I finally gave in and went outside to watch, listen, and feel. She was my first hurricane.

She was windy and wet, bending trees and snapping limbs, soaking the soil with water from the south. She spiraled with an energy only fools would dream of harnessing, an energy only the wise are content to admire. She traveled in shades of gray, changing with her gusts, thinning as she aged. She was confident and audacious, controlling the moment and far from denure. She feigned no modesty.

Closer and closer she came, and I ran to the clearing on the hilltop to greet her. The sky lightened as I reached the clearing, the wind and the rain subsided. For what seemed a long and magic minute, I looked Gloria in the eye. She looked back with filtered sunshine like a freight train in the night; deep blue sky surrounded by clouds. For a moment I was ecstatic as the clouds rushed by the strange and eerie opening at great speed. It was ecstasy for the new and surreal; for the sublime. But then she was gone, like a first lover meant only to teach, but not to stay. Gloria was beautiful.

Nearly everyone I've talked with was grateful for the specialists and their high-tech ability to warn us of Gloria, even though she wasn't as bad as predicted. Let me offer another view.

First, consider the obvious costs to such a technology. It is based on non-renewable resources which give us toxic chemicals, nuclear waste, polluted water and air, entire ecosystems dying of acid rain, carcinogens around every corner, shrinking wilderness, and on and on and on. The list is an endless, ubiquitous tragedy. That is enough to keep me from applauding most of our technological feats and blindly accepting the so-called fruits of our technology. I do not accept the premise that technology will find solutions to the problems it inherently causes. It has thus far failed miserably, with both human and non-human communities throughout the planet facing life-threatening problems.

Secondly, almost all of high technology is designed to give human beings an "advantage" over nature, advantages that continue to separate us from nature in our daily lives, and work against nature rather than with it. (Hydro-electric dams and the common farm tractor are two examples that come to mind.) These advantages have allowed the human population to exist at an artificially high number for many years; a number not set by the limits of nature, but rather by the limits of our own technology. The result is our overburdened, beleaguered planet.

Given those two points, I would rather face a hurricane without warning, just as I would rather hike in a wilderness area without the constant forecast of a grizzly's coordinates. A totally safe and predictable life carries with it harmful effects on the planet, and is, for me, a sterile existence. I have no use for it. I ask you, Gloria, and your wild and lovely sisters of the sea, for just one thing when you pass my way again: Surprise me.

-- Robert Streeter

Mexican Dinner Draws Crowd

MEXICO IN WENDELL- This was the staff at the Rt. 2 Mexican Dinner, South Bank Fiesta, Sept. 14 in the Town Hall, and a spirited staff it was. Left to right, Marty, Nina, Amy, Bob, Brenda, Bob, Kathy and (in sombrero and moustache) Suzy.

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Rt. 2 Fundraiser

On Sept. 14th, the fundraising committee for the Rt. 2 Environmental Coalition put on a sizzling, festive Mexican dinner. It was well attended and the cooking staff got rave reviews by very well-fed diners.

The event was organized by Anne Zak and staffed by Gwen Soule, Bev Cowdrick, Myron Becker, Deva Newton, Dale Kowacki, Susan DunLany, Brenda Vincent, Amy Carter, Bob Streeter, Gretchen Gates, Nancy Cole and Patti Waters,
(Waiters shown in photograph)
Table bouquets were by Jacquie Gentl.

After dinner, a stirring musical performance by the Flor de Cana, (from Arts for a New Nicaragua), had the audience on their feet several times.

The group collects instruments for Nicaragua, and Wendellites donated a guitar, banjo, flute and accordian.

On Oct. 19th and 20th, a very success ful tag sale was held on Route 2 and workers "hung in there" despite rain.

On Dec. 28th, the Full Moon Coffeehouse is proud to announce its special guest star, Molly Scott.

Solstice Gathering

A solstice gathering will be held at the Wendell Town Hall the evening of Sat. Dec. 21st from 7:30pm to 12:30am. The event will be a benefit for the Navaho of Big Mt. Arizona who are being forced to relocate from their land.

The evening will start with a potluck from 7 - 8 followed by a slide show from 8 - 9, and 9 - 12 will be a dance. The event will conclude with a special ritual to coincide with a nationwide prayer vigil. It is sponsored by the Wendell Big Mt. Support Group. A donation of $2.50 - $5 is being asked.

Opposing Conte for Rep. Amherst's Weiner

Bob Weiner, of Amherst, former director of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Aging has announced his candidacy for Congress today from the first district. Weiner, a Democrat, will be challenging incumbent Republican Silvio Conte.

Weiner says the region has lost $200 million in cuts under the Reagan administration in programs that were aiding education, housing, job training, veterans, and senior citizen programs. He said Conte has a weak voting record during the Reagan years as ranked by national labor, senior citizen, environmental, and consumer organizations.

Among Western Massachusetts Democratic and community leaders supporting Weiner's effort are: Former State Rep. Bill Benson, Franklin County Democratic Chairman; Bob Biagi, Franklin County Democratic Vice Chair; Leo Bouchard, Former Amherst Democratic Chairman; State Rep. Carmen Buell of Greenfield. "This will be a mainstream campaign, within the framework of the Democratic Party, to build a coalition that can win," Weiner said.

Swiftriver cont. from p. 1

The office area affords no privacy for the pyschologist with either child or parent. The principal's office is in the same predicament. The health area affords no quiet to a child who is not feeling well and cannot be sent home because of lack of someone at home.

After much discussion during the summer meetings called with town officials to try to determine a reasonable amount of growth we might expect in the next few years, we finally projected up to 250 children as a possibility. We talked of adding on two rooms -- even a recreation area or room for the townspeople. We talked of having the preschool included at Swift River.

With all the discussion, the committee unanimously decided to support presenting to the towns the following decision:

#1 -- To delete the recreation area/room for the towns because of no interest and the location would not be consistent to each town's activities;

#2 -- To present the decision about the preschool on a separate article to allow the voters to make the decision, keeping in mind the reduction in cost for heat, maintenance, and other physical needs as well as the teacher being able to use the facilities at Swift River more easily and to better advantage. Teachers' concerns are a lack of personnel. When a child is hurt, answering phone and leaving children, etc.;

#3 -- To present the towns with a complete addition of six rooms, remodeling the present school, enlarging the cafeteria, gym/auditorium (to include a stage), bathrooms, and library.

Building costs escalate every year. It's a conservative estimate that it will cost 7% more per year to build an therefore ten years down the road, our costs would increase by at least 70% if not more.

The state will reimburse 80% of the building costs, 75% of the finance charges. True, if we do not accept this we will be reimbused 75% of building costs after June 1986.

There's still lots to do to upgrade our school, for a more conducive place for our children to learn and grow, a place we can be proud to send them.

-- Gladys Powling

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Waffles! starts 1st Sun. in Oct.
The Wendell Country Store
544-8511

Planning Board Head cont. from p. 1

His board is currently writing a town-wide poll to obtain citizen sentiment toward specific development control ideas. He hopes to have it distributed and returned by the middle of December. Tom also said he'd like his board to cooperate with the conservation commission "and get any and all wetlands out of development pressure."

In the past six months, the planning board has approved the creation of 16 new building lots, all subdivisions of large parcels. Records of the tax assesor's office indicate that over half of Wendell's properties are owned by out of towners. Of the recent sales, "a good share have been to out of town buyers," Tom said. He described this kind of sale as "an investment--either for later construction or for resale."

Particularly from the standpoint of controlling Wendell's development--this land exists in a kind of limbo. It raises the possibility of a sudden explosion of construction. Even if it occurs more slowly, "The pressure on town services may become a geometric progression where the development itself is only arithmetic," he said.

Tom reports running into opposition to even an increase in frontage requirements, however. "Someone told me it's snobbery" to make the change, he said, "since it excludes the masses at a time when fewer and fewer people can afford to own their own home." Wendell has a small tradition of functioning as a nursery for property owners; since the early '70s it has launched scores of young families and households with a piece of wooded real estate. To old-timers, this constituted invasion, by college educated homesteaders and young families with a nearby job. But to anyone who has experienced the search for affordable property, the question of exclusivity hits close to the heart.

The present influx is different today only in detail, reflecting the different economics. Whereas the settled Wendellites travel generally less than a half an hour to jobs, the newbuyers, Tom says he's met aren't expecting local work. "The jobs available within a short commute aren't of a salary scale that would attract these upper-middle-class people," he notes. Rather, they're here because "to the east of us real estate has become less affordable. Within the last two years people have begun moving into the Northern Tier. Most of them intend to commute between their home and Greater Boston, he said--their $40-45,000 family incomes can't afford a house in Boxboro."

"There is an element of the population that is comfortable with a 1½ hr. commute each way--but it's a small one," said Tom. "I think it will reach the saturation point the discovery that commuting is not fun. If jobs don't materialize around here, there will be a reversal, a small exodus." He said most of the effort to create local jobs is directed at the blue collar workforce, of which so many are locally unemployed. He believes, "If the economy here doesn't expand, whether the longdistance commuters stay or leave will depend on their mortgage payment and the cost of gasoline." Similarly, if they are promoted at their Rt. 128 jobs, they may elect to move back toward Boston into houses which are suddenly more affordable to them, he said.

Either way, stay or leave, a serious readjustment faces Wendell. "There's always the feeling of recent arrivals, "I'm aboard now you can pull up the ladder," Tom said. "In a sense, that's snobbism, but that doesn't change the fact that this town is coming up against it's limited resources to support many more people."

Jonathan von Ranson

Editor's note: The Post invites readers with opinions about Wendell's development, or any issue, to express themselves in letters to the paper at P.O. Box 113, Wendell 01379

Low Profile cont from p. 1

In fact, the DPW has agreed to perform an engineering feasibility study of the LPA in conjunction with the scheduled 25% Design Study of the SBA which is to be undertaken by Louis Berger and Associates of Wellesley. Negotiations between the DPW and Berger are underway and the contract is expected to be signed soon.

Once the feasibility of the LPA has been determined, the State had agreed to reconsider its previous preference for the SBA and after sufficient study, public hearings, etc. make a new choice between the SBA and the LPA. It is hoped that the new choice will designate the LPA as the preferred alignment.

The Low Profile Alignment got its name from the design goal of locating the highway so that its impact on the environment and the community of Erving would be minimized. The LPA closely parallels the existing transportation corridor consisting of the present Route 2 and the railroad tracks, while keeping it out of sight of the houses in Erving center. The LPA is a limited access highway designed to the same standards as the SBA. Both designs would allow present Route 2 to become a low-traffic main street for both Erving center and Farley, and would displace approximately the same number of homes and businesses. However the LPA has two significant advantages for Erving over the SBA. It would remove the paper mill traffic from the present Route 2 and it would allow through traffic ready access to the small businesses in Erving. Moreover the LPA would avoid the environmentally disasterous path which would be taken by the SBA through the Wendell State Forest.

The LPA was designed by the Route 2 Environmental Coalition only to provide an environmentally sound alternative to the SBA. Neither accident statistics nor traffic counts indicate that a new highway is needed.

Mason and Ina Phelps

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Athol, Mass. 249-8931

Restrictions Demanded

I recently spoke with selectman Jim Slavas about sprays on right of ways. He informed me that he was drafting a bylaw which would be scrutinized by Attorney Judith Pickett. She was our lawyer during the last legal procedures regarding sprays.

This bylaw would require sprayers who apply on more than one acre per year to file an inventory map of that land, and land extending 200 feet beyond spray borders. The map would be reviewed by town authorities to see if sprayers comply with state wetland protection acts. For instance, spraying no closer to wetlands than 250 feet would be allowed.

Sprayers would also be required to make sure they were in compliance with label restrictions and guidelines and to make sure they were in compliance with the state.

We can now only expect one grace; that of a 21 day pre-notification, a law passed a few years ago by the state.

So, come spring, I might advise mental preparedness for possible repeated chemical alert. Wendell was sprayed two years ago and spot "touch ups" are common on a 4-7 year plan.

As far as an additional town plan, I suggest we organize a community group now so I will not be inundated with calls on D-Day. Perhaps we should collect signatures on a pledge to protect our groundwater or map the R.R. and power line routes, confer with abutters, chart our water sources, communicate with the state, etc.

There are still many avenues of resistance and reform. Other towns have been successful. We will be,too, with support from residents, so our selectboard continues to get our clear message of appreciation and collaboration.

Hope to Hear From You,

Nina Keller
Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Search for a Waste Oil Receptacle

Our town would be much better off if we could bring our used motor oil to one receptacle at the town dump, like other towns do. I have slowly been searching for a tank of approx. 200-400 gals. A 2000 gal. used truck tank was suggested but as much as we greatly appreciate the spirit in which it was offered, realize the size would not be in our best interest.

Please think! Where did you last see that unused but decent tank someone would offer the town ? And while you're thinking, kindly remember that any place selling you oil is required by state law to recieve your waste oil.

Waste oil might destroy groundwater if casually, furtively, it is dumped behind the shed, on a dusty road, or on a power line.

Much thoughtful thanks,
Nina Keller

Depot Man Works for Love of Machines & History

During the summer months, I became intrigued by a curious construction going up in the big hayfield east of the Douglas Johnson home on Wendell Depot Rd., so one day I stopped by to visit and to find out what was going on.

Doug is busy reconstructing a steam engine, circa 1880, which was originally built by the C.H. Brown Co., in Fitchburg, Mass. The project will take several months, so the rectangular building is the shelter made to protect the engine while the work is being performed.

I asked him why he was doing it. He paused a moment, then said, " I want to preserve a part of the past, save these historic machines from being forgotten, and keep them for this generation, and maybe the next, to learn from and enjoy."

It is obvious that Doug enjoys his work. A resident of town for twenty five years, he's always had an active interest in machines and old engines, the older the better. He started his collection of gasoline powered engines (one lungers) when he bought the former Putnam- Goslin- Miller place in 1960. He's sold many of them since then, and now concentrates on the more unusual and historic engines.

"Charles W. Brown was a Fitchburg inventor, and this engine of his is just like one that Thomas A. Edison used to develop the first incandescent light bulb. One of these engines stands in the Menlo Park section of Henry Ford's Greenfield Village Museum in Dearborn, Michigan," he said.

Doug went on to portray a typical scene in which the engine might be found. It would be fueled by wood or coal, and power the machines in the shop via belts which were connected to a central shaft along the ceiling. He stated that it is his hope to restore the engine to a point where it can be put on display at the annual 4th of July Enginuity Show at the Orange Airport next year.

"I wouldn't use steam to run it there however," he said. "The large boiler needed to burn the fuels would be impractical, so I'll use one of my gas engines to operate it."

The shelter that he's built provides protection, but it has brought about problems of its own. The plastic used to form the sides combines with the sun to create the greenhouse effect. It gets very hot inside, and also generates condensation Doug must open up the ends each day to dry up the moisture which would rust the engine if left unattended. At this writing, all of the parts are free from rust, dirt and accumulated debris. He estimates that 3,000 hours will be required before it's done.

About ten years ago, Doug acquired the Brown engine from the late Brad Frye, who had bought it from the Baldwinville Paper Mill. He relates that the roof of that section of the mill had to removed before it could be lifted out by a crane.

Right now Doug is looking for 6 or 8 12x12 beams, 20 ft. in length. If any of the Post's readers could help him locate these beams, he would appreciate a call. They'll be needed when the time comes to move the engine.

Doug Johnson has a deep love of history and a sense that this generation has lost a lot of valuable knowledge about the men and machines that changed the country in the industrial revolution. So he is saving from the past, the best of the early inventions, and putting them to work with enthusiasm and dedication. Stop by; you'll be amazed at the newness of this old historic engine, and be transported to another era by Doug Johnson's expertise on his favorite subject.

Marilyn A. Morin

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Wendell Music Scene

DATELINE: WENDELL, MASS. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP DISCOVERS REVOLUTIONARY CURE FOR CABIN FEVER. Yes folks, the amazing Dr. Schnook (aka Waffles the Clown) has discovered a cure-all for that most dreaded of cold weather ailments. So when the moon is full and the calendar reads Saturday, head on up to the town hall for an evening of lively entertainment and great desserts. If you've already been, you know what I mean; if you haven't, don't wait too long, by the time this goes to press you will already have missed singer/songwriter Court Dorsey and friends on Nov. 23rd. Coming in December will be Molly Scott.

Meanwhile, for those other nights of the week, there are a variety of remedies which can be used in the home. May I bring to your attentionthree fine LP'S recently released by artists who are already associated with Wendell and have all appeared at the Full Moon Coffeehouse within the last year. Garden of Earthly Delights in Search of Never Ending Love is the name of Heartsong's first record which consists of songs written by him with help from a large cross section of the community. Recorded mostly at Wendell Studio, it features Jahn Bullock of LCB, Judith Ann Marie, and Lynn Meryl, singing many of Heartsong's uplifting songs. You can pick up a copy up at Wendell Country Store. Firelight is the title of Debbie Fier's new one, which seems destined to enlarge the following she built around her first. I first noticed this beautifully packaged all instrumental LP prominently displayed in the women's music section at Tower Records in New York City! Three Days in May by Steven Schoenberg, continues to sell prolifically while Steve will be doing a live Christmas concert at the Iron Horse in Northampton on Dec. 15. Steve also displayed his proficiency on the synthesizer at a recent Coffeehouse presentation of a soundtrack to a slide show on the proposed Route 2 Construction area.

Loose Caboose recently debuted at Pearl Street in Northampton to an enthusiastic crowd of 400 people. Look for more LCB dates at Pearl Street in the coming months as well as more reggae at the club in general. And listen for Doctor Dub, WGAJ 92 F.M. The show is called "Universal Party", featuring reggae and airs from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Wed. night.

Saturday evening, Dec. 7, there will be a special "New Moon" edition f the Wendell town hall coffeehouse, featuring women performers, but open to any and all. Tune in for a special evening with Shane Devine, Mountain Roots Dancers, Culpina, Ilene Ruby, Amy Hubert and Phyllis, Missy, and a dance party after the show. Begins at 7.30, and lots of homemade desserts too!.

Congratulations to Klon and Terry on the birth of their daughter Aubrey. Klondike Sound has been busy as ever and are currently providing sound for the Tom Rush tour.

Wailin Dave and the Blue Dogs, with special guest Dave Boatwright of LCB, will appear at a party at U Mass , Hampden Gallery at Hampden dining commons, on Dec. 8,to celebrate local painter Chet Cramer's MFA thesis exhibition entitled, "Home Sweet Blues".

Chanukah

by Rabbi Barry Krieger

Chanukah, like all other Jewish holidays, has significance historically, spiritually and seasonally. Historically, Chanukah reminds us of the time when the Maccabees, Jewish guerilla warriors, fought for their religious and national freedom against the Syrians and the Greeks in 165 B.C.E. The word Chanukah literally means "rededication" and refers to the act of rededicating the Temple in Jerusalem by the victorious Maccabee soldiers.

Spiritually, Chanukah encourages us to balance our outer/physical power with our inner/spiritual power. Though the Maccabees were victorious in a physical and military sense, they balanced their victory with the spiritual act of rededication. This balance is still sought after by us as individuals and as nations.

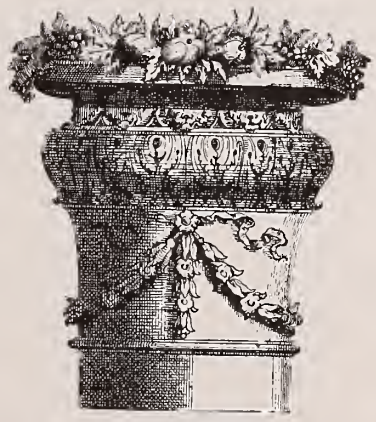
Seasonally, Chanukah, like Christmas and other winter solstice holidays, falls at the darkest time of the year. However, unique to the Jewish calendar is the balancing of the two elements which keep time--the sun and the moon. Chanukah comes when the sun nears its lowest point in the southern hemisphere and when the moon approaches its new monthly cycle. Thus, Chanukah comes at the darkest time of the year as determined by the balancing of both the sun and the moon.

Most importantly, we are all at the time of year when lights represent the hope we all share for a world filled with warmth and peace. May this season lighten our hearts, minds and souls so that we can share the goodness we have within and help bring peace to the world and people around us.

NOTE: Rabbi Barry Krieger is the spiritual leader of Temple Israel in Athol, with his residence on West Main Street in New Salem.

Beginning January 3rd, Friday night services at Temple Israel will be held on a bi-weekly basis. Call Temple Israel at 249-9481 if interested in further information.

The "Post" welcomes Rabbi Krieger and his family to the area.



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Selectmen's Minutes

June 11, 1985

Signed Warrants

Selectman disscussed the possibility of constuction for a municipal office building.

Debbrah Radway, Wendell's Admn. Asst., sent aletter requesting the selectboard to schedule a special day to work with her so she can better serve the town. Jim Slavas will respond to the letter.

The selectboard disscussed modifying the weekly meeting so they can accomplish internal business and the following was agreed to; 7:00-7:30 internal business,ie: reading of letters, thereafter for the public.

A town flag is being made. It should be ready sometime this summer.

Mitchell Kosh, director of Maple Valley School, acme by to request the use of town hall for the Maple Valley graduation party June 20th. This party is private for Maple Valley's students only. Permission granted.

Town meeting was recessed till Thursday June 13 at 7pm for lack of Quorum.

June 19, 1985

Meeting was called to order at 7:50 by Chairman Jim Slavas, with full board.

Also present; Chairman of Highway Commission's Jay Blackbird, and Joseph Hartjens.

Disscussed how the selectboard and Road Commissions will work together. Duties and responsibilities were defined as follows;

1) Road Commission will be responsible for and regulate Chapter 90 contracts.
2) Road Commission picked up power of selectman.
3) Selectboard will refer matters pertaining tothe town roads to the board of Road Commissions.
4) Communications between boards: one person from each board was appointed to serve as liaison. (Ted Lewis, Jay Blackbird.)
5) One representative from each board will be required to be present for hearings.

Montague Road: Disscussion on layout of repairs.

The goal is to acheive minimal blind corners and dips. Ted Lewis, Micheal Idoine Jay Blackbird and Joseph Hartjens will walk through site and discuss design July19. Both boards will report disscussion at next meeting following their visit to the site.

June 25, 1985

Signed weekly warrants

Discussion on the realignment of Rt. 2. Tigh & Bond Engineers Firm from Northampton require an open office for the required hearings. The Board offered their office for these hearings. Rental arrangements will be negotiated at a later date.

Strapps contract will be signed in mid July. The town recieved the OK to start cutting trees on Montague Road. Ted Lewis and Bill Wooderson will go over alignment.

Jay Blackbird arrived at 7:30. He in formed the board of copiers for sale, the prices range from $450.00 to $1600.00. He also informed the Board taht DEM wants some trees saved on Montague Road.

The Board discussed parking on Montague Rd.. The town voted one year ago that there would be no parking on the unimproved dirt section of Montague Road. Signs will be put up as soon as we recieve them. Jay Blackbird said the signs are on the way. Children at play signs are also available.

Jim Slavas is going to write a letter of thanks to Carmen Buell.

cont' p. 12

Selectmen's Minutes cont.

July 2, 1985

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by selectman Micheal Idoine. Ted Lewis was present, Chairman Slavas is on vacation.

Board disscussed a citizens complaint about a Wendell police officer. The Board will investigate.

The Board recieved a letter from Francis Hoey of Northampton requesting certified copies of all monies appropriated for reimbursement for town highway expenses.

Signed weekly warrants.

Jim Slavas and Gladys Powling arrived at 7:15. They disscussed the present problems of Swift River School. They disscussed the following;

1) The size of the school. The school is not big enough for present student enrollment.
2) The study of future enrollments.
3) The possibilities of grants for additions to the school.

The school Committee will be having a meeting Aug. 13, 1985. They have requested that the Selectboard and Town Assessors be present.

Ted Lewis informed the board that the Town Flag Pole needs painting before it can be erected. The board decided to paint it white.

Ted Lewis informed the board that the gravel purchased by the Road Commission was too expensive. Ted Lewis and the Road Commission Chairman, Jay Blackbird will meet and correct the problem.

The Selectmen recieved a cutting plan from DEM--The state will be cutting sixty acres.

From Sears Rd. South--120 thousand feet
167 cords

Admn. Asst. Report

Northeast Rural Water Engineers will be here July 8th at 10:00 am to survey:

DEM Public hearing on improving public parks and recreation areas, July 8th. Micheal Idoine volunteered to attend the meeting.

The Board disscussed possible locations for a municipal bldg.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25

July 9, 1985

Meeting was called to order at 7:00

James Slavas and Ted Lewis were present. Micheal Idoine was at DEM meeting in Athol.

Signed weekly warrants.

Board disscussed progress of Arch Street Bridge.

Micheal Idoine and Jay Blackbird marked trees to be cut down on Montague Rd. Apprx. 280 trees(about 35.4 cords)

Harlen Gilbert sat in on meeting while waiting for Finance Committe mtg. to begin.

Selectboard Chairman Jim Slavas recived a phone call from Mr. Lubinsky, Superintendant of Schools. They disscussed repairs needed at preschool. Repairs requested were

New chain for swing set.

Painting of school.

Permission Granted.

Jim Slavas informed the board that Ann Perkins will be having a singout on the commons to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The singout will take place August 4th.

Discussed progress on Town Flag pole. The road crew will fill hole for the stand.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

July 16, 1985

Meeting was called to order at 7:00. Micheal Idoine and Ted Lewis were present.

Signed weekly warrants.

Ed Chase waspresent. He requested permission to sell beer on Old Home Day. He also disscussed with the board the citizen complaint against a Wendell policeman. Follow-up is forthcoming.

Anne Diemand was present.She requested the roads be blocked for safety on Old Home Day. She also requested a pick-up truck or a dump truck for trash pick-up.

Permission granted for both requests.

Silvia Wetherby requested the use of Town Hall on Old Home Day to show films of Central America.

permission granted.

Silvia Wetherby requested use of town hall for pot luck supper July 28th.

Permission granted.

She also requested use of town hall Aug. 11th for 50 teenagers and 10 adults who are on a peace walk from Cambridge to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. The Board will get back to her.

A complaint of vandalism and harrassment was made against Maple Valley students by Donna Mcleod. The Board will investigate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

AUGUST 6th,1985

Jim Slavas, Ted Lewis were present. Micheal Idoine arrived 7:15

Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Signed weekly warrants.

The selectmen met with Joe Diemand and discussed the expansion of Mormon Hollow Auto. The selectmen agreed to work with Joe Diemand on the expansion.

OLD BUSINESS

Jack Gates the town counsel needs status of cemetery on Farley Rd. before he can act on Mr. Matusso's request of restoration.

Jim Slavas will be going to a meeting in Boston with the DPW Engineers Wednesday August7th.

Everett Ricketts informed the Board thatthe firetruck is off the road.He is looking for guidance for repairs. The Board suggested Mr. Ricketts bring them more information before a decision can be made. The truck broke down on the way to Shutesbury Aug. 2nd.

Jay Blackbird arrived at 8:10. He informed the Board of repairs needed on grader truck.

The road commission has started to grade the roads.

Jay Blackbird discussed the possibility of buying a chipper to clear the brush off the sides of the road. The board suggested renting one or hiring someone with a chipper instead.

The Board would like to thank Theodore E. Lewis for all of the time and energy he put into getting Wendell's flag up. THANKYOU TED LEWIS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

August 20, 1985

Meeting came to order at 7:00.

Jim Slavas, Chairman, and Ted Lewis were present. Michael Idoine arrived at 7:30.

Selectboard is reviewing police policies from other towns to use in Wendell in respect to the use of fire arms.

Selectboard recieved a report of 4 flat tires on the town backhoe.

The selectboard formally accepted a $200.00 grant for the right to know reimbursements for Chapter MGL 44 Section 53A.

Tom Wetherby informed the board that the Planning Board accepted Jerry Barilla to the board as temporary board member until elections.

The Selectboard recieved a letter from the Division of Registration requesting the name of the plumbing and gas inspectors for Wendell. The plumbing inspector for Wendell is David Walsh who was appointed May '85.

Michael Idoine informed the board that he has spoken with Ruth Wynkoop about her dogs. The clerk will send letter requesting a meeting with her.

The Selectboard recieved a letter from Mass DPW for fiscal 1986 Chapt. 90 reimbursements. The total is $17,433.

The Selectboard recieved a letter from Lucille Lewis thanking them for putting up the Town Flag.

Selectboard reviwed a report of a Master Plan meeting. The meeting will take place at Erving Town Hall, 7:30 Aug. 23. Master Plan Agenda: Priorities and possibilities about how to go about the plan. The Selectboard is going to put together a preliminary list of roads.

Jim Slavas informed the board that he was asked about buying land for a recreation center for the town. The Board will look into this possibility starting with the Town's insurance.

Selectboard majority voted to put a second hand motor in the town fire truck. Baskins total cost will be under $2,000.

Jim Slavas informed the board that he would like to have a study for satallite first responder. He thinks two smaller tanks, one on either side of town would be able to respond quicker. Wendell's pumper fire truck holds 3,300 gallons.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Sept. 11, 1985

The meeting started at 7:00.

James Slavas Chairman, and Ted Lewis were present. Mike Idoine was in Boston.

Signed weekly warrants.

Kenny Wing, Dog Officer was present. He gave the Board a vet bill. The Board informed him to sign it and give it to the town accountant to be put on the warrant.

Recieved a petition from Mass. Electric for permission to locate poles on Jennison Road approx. 4353 feet southwardly of New Salem Rd. & continuing approx. 368 feet. (2 poles) Selectmens clerk will send letters to abuttors.

Discussed purchasing a typewriter for the Town. Board signed purchase order for typewriter.

Don Mackey requested the new Town Flag be flown more often. The Board will look into it.

Meeting adjourned 8:20.

October 8, 1985

The meeting came to order at 7:00. All selectmen were present.

Signed the weekly warrants.

Harry Williston was present.

James Slavas informed the Board of an article to be in the Town Warrants.

Florie Blackbird requested the use of the Town Hall on Thursday for the next few weeks for cub scouts until she receivew permission from Swift River School to hold the meetings there. Permission granted.

James Slavas went to the School Committee meeting . The Wchool Committee woulc like to hold a special Town Meeting in December to vote on $18,000 minimim teachers salary and Educational Development proposal.

UPDATE

No further developments on the NE Rural Water Project.

Trees are still being cut on the Montague Road project.

The Board accepted 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16 minutes.

Selectman Idoine will talk to owners of cars parked too close to road and disuss resolutions.

Articles were submitted for Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Selectmen received a check for $2,600 from Revenue Sharing.

Meeting recessed at 9:00 until Suan. at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Howarth